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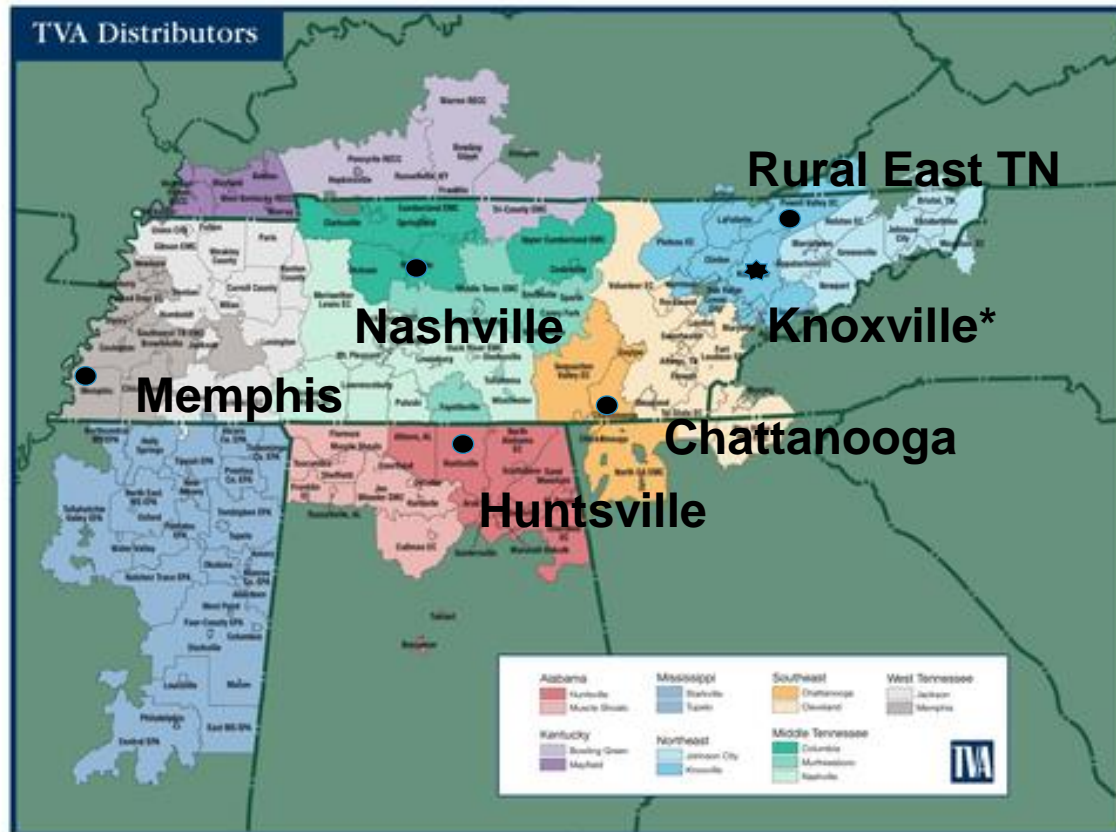
Energy Efficiency Community Meetings Impact Report

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Meeting Locations



Energy Burdens

- **Recent ACEEE Report: *Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities***
- **Economically disadvantaged communities tend to have higher “energy burdens” – spending a larger portion of their income on energy bills**
 - One reason for this is that these communities tend to have older homes with poor insulation, single pane windows, and leakage – paying more for energy per square foot
- **Memphis, has the highest low-income energy burden of any major city in US**
 - Rural communities can face even higher burdens
- **This problem really resonated in meetings**

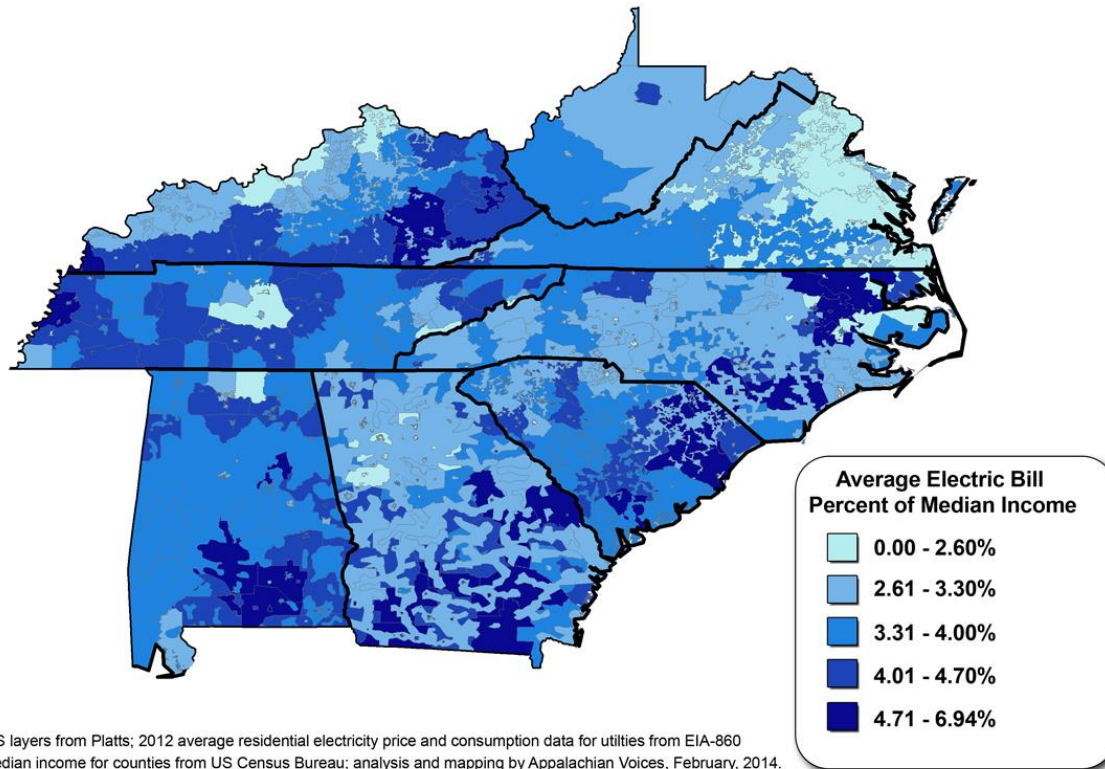
Energy Burdens in the 5 Cities With the Highest Energy Burdens

	All households	Low-income households*
1	Memphis (6.2%)	Memphis (13.2%)
2	Birmingham (5.3%)	Birmingham (10.9%)
3	New Orleans (5.3%)	Atlanta (10.2%)
4	Atlanta (5.0%)	New Orleans (9.8%)
5	Providence (4.7%)	Providence (9.5%)

Low-income Memphis households in the upper quartile are spending more than 25% of their income on home energy bills!

Rural Energy Burdens

Electricity Bill Cost Burden for All Utility Service Territories in the Southeast



Sources: GIS layers from Platts; 2012 average residential electricity price and consumption data for utilities from EIA-860 database; median income for counties from US Census Bureau; analysis and mapping by Appalachian Voices, February, 2014.

Common Experiences

- **Experiences with energy burden**
 - High energy bills cause serious hardship – many have to forego other essential purchases to pay bill
 - Extreme temperatures can be unbearable
 - Inefficient housing can cause serious health issues
 - Many have taken low-cost steps to lower bills, but can't afford the significant investment needed
- **Strong pride in self-reliance, but the need for help is even stronger**
 - Even those with very high energy burdens are often more concerned about the welfare of others

Common Challenges

- **Lack of control over bills**
 - Emotionally draining
- **Lack of information**
- **Difficulty seeking help from local agencies**
- **Lack of trust – skeptical of utilities**
- **General feeling of being left behind**
- **Lack of access to capital**
- **Structural and maintenance problems that prevent energy efficiency upgrades**



Common Recommendations

- **Need for community input, coordination**
- **Variety of programs – not one size fits all**
 - For example, on-bill financing is appealing because it can open up the option of paying your own way
- **Gap between programs for very poor and middle to upper income**
 - Many don't qualify for WAP but face constraints in their credit, budgets, time, and information
- **Need a streamlined participation process**
- **Programs should support local jobs**

Common Strengths

- **Keen awareness that their bills shouldn't be so high**
- **Strong interest in saving energy – already making sacrifices to that end**
- **Power of community – extensive involvement in local charities like Meals on Wheels and church groups**
- **Very appreciative of willingness of TVA to meet with them – encouraging that they haven't been forgotten**

Rural East TN Meeting Recap

- **August 12, 2016**
 - Appalachian Voices led in organizing rural community members from Powell Valley area.
- **Many live in older manufactured homes**
 - Extreme indoor temperatures unbearable, cause health problems.
- **Unsafe heating methods**
- **Lacking local assistance**
- **Feel left behind and isolated**
 - Norris Lake flooded family farms and separated communities; economy has changed, jobs are gone



Rural East TN - Recommendations

- **“Support extreme makeovers for rural homes, send message to distributors to invest in energy efficiency programs, provide funding for LED bulb give away.”**
- **“Incentives for electric companies to do weatherization programs, pay true value of energy efficiency.”**
- **“Implement a community-based committee to set up a program to begin inspection on housing to first find the need within the community. Examine the cost of what it will take to implement this program and then base the cost on the most need.”**
- **“I like the pay-as-you-save project that has been piloted in other states (like Arkansas) where these old houses have been behind the curve, power companies could see long-term benefits in investment. Not just in energy savings but local economies expanding (and new houses, new customers.”**

Chattanooga Meeting Recap

- **Met August 15, 2016**
 - Greenspaces led in organizing team.
- **Emphasis on making programs clear and easy to navigate – some reported bad experiences with WAP.**
- **Upgrades need to happen in timely manner.**
- **Important to be able to access precursor needs, like roof or foundation work.**
- **Distrust – Greenspaces working to fix.**

Huntsville Meeting Recap

- **Met on August 15, 2016**
 - Energy Alabama led in organizing team.
- **Only meeting that took place outside of Tennessee**
 - Important to work with state agencies and orgs. – housing, energy, etc. – in each state.
- **Need for effective coordination with local utility**
 - eScore is not available in Huntsville
 - Extreme Energy Makeovers could be improved

Memphis Meeting Recap

- **Meeting held on August 18, 2016**
- **Only “majority minority” city**
 - Long history of injustice
- **Strong commitment among local leaders & organizations to solve energy burden**
- **Folks want a “hand up, not a hand out.”**
 - Madeline Taylor, Exec. Dir. of Memphis NAACP
- **Just Energy Memphis – *engaging MLGW***
 - Partnership of NAACP, SACE, Sierra Club

Memphis – Key Takeaways

- **Need to work with service groups (e.g., Habitat for Humanity) to rehabilitate older homes**
- **Need to work with housing agencies and incentivize landlords to make improvements**
- **Need to learn from history of flawed weatherization projects – shoddy work, misused funds, etc.**
- **Ensure majority of jobs are filled by minorities**
- **Need to coordinate data and implementation with MLGW, and make sure TVA staff is available for questions on program participation**
 - **Noted there is no local TVA phone number**

Nashville Meeting Recap

- **Meeting held on August 22, 2016**
 - Local organizing led by Dan Joranko, former president of Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light
- **Nashville Energy Justice Team**
 - Had several meetings, training session, and developed written principles to deliver to TVA: *very well prepared and organized*
- **Severe lack of trust – many believed minorities are charged more per kWh**
- **Emphasized need for variety of programs**

Knoxville Meeting Recap

- **Meeting held with Knoxville Energy Justice Initiative (KEJI) on 9-29-16.**
 - Local leaders include Stan Johnson, John Butler, and Louise Gorenflo
- **KEJI is currently focused on local municipal efforts through Knoxville's Smarter Cities partnership.**
 - Advocating building on success of KEEM, implementing on-bill financing, among other efforts.
 - Highly effective WAP agency, coordination of resources, and support from local officials

Summary

- **High energy burden is a serious problem that requires serious solutions**
 - Need a variety of approaches to the problem
- **Working with communities is key**
 - Provides insights, builds trust, and offers education
- **Participation should be as easy as possible**
- **Provide equitable share of local jobs**
- **Address structural and other obstacles**
- **Leverage strong communities & passion**